

Serial No.: 09/921,589
Filing Date: August 3, 2001

Examiner: C. Hamilton
Art Unit: 1752

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A photosensitive element comprising:

- a) a backing layer
- b) at least one layer of a photocurable composition on said backing layer, which photocurable composition is curable by contact with ultraviolet radiation;
- c) at least one ablation layer which is ablatabl by laser radiation and which absorbs at least 97% of the ultra violet radiation in the spectral range used to photocure the photocurable layer, wherein the ablation layer is in direct contact with the at least one photocurable layer and has a surface opposite the photocurable layer capable of being exposed to laser ablation, the ablation layer comprising:
 - i) at least one ultraviolet radiation absorbing material; and
 - ii) at least one binder that is selected from the group consisting of polyacetals, polyacrylics, polyamides, polyimides, polybutylenes, polycarbonates, polyesters, polyethylenes, polyphenylene ethers and polyethylene oxides;

wherein the ablation layer is ablatabl from the surface of the photocurable layer upon exposure to laser radiation, wherein the photocurable layer is curable by contact with ultraviolet radiation and wherein the ablatabl layer is ablatabl by contact with laser radiation without damage to the photocurable layer.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The element of claim 10 wherein said backing layer is transparent.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The element of claim 10 wherein said photocurable composition comprises a photopolymer selected from the group consisting

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of polyurethanes, acrylonitrile rubbers, and diblock and triblock copolymers made from styrene-isoprene and styrene-butadiene.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The element of claim 12 wherein said polyurethane is selected from the group consisting of acid-modified acrylate polyurethanes and amine-modified acrylate polyurethanes.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The element of claim 10 wherein said ultraviolet radiation absorbing material absorbs laser radiation having a wavelength of 10.6 μm .

Claims 15-17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): The element of claim 10 wherein the ultraviolet radiation absorbing material constitutes about 1-20 weight parts per hundred of said ablation layer.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The element of claim 10 wherein the ultraviolet radiation absorbing material is selected from the group consisting of benzophenone derivatives and strongly absorbing dyes.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The element of claim 10 wherein said laser is a CO₂ laser that emits at a wavelength of 10.6 μm .

Claim 21 (cancelled)

(W1256478;3)